



COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA



Perú

DECLARATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS EMERGENCY OF INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMAZON REGION

Blood in the jungle, we demand justice



Guyana

The Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (**COICA**) and its member organizations in nine countries in the Amazon basin:



Ecuador

AIDSESP, Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest.

APA, Amerindian Peoples Association for Guyana.

Organic **CIDOB**, Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia.

COIAB, Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon.

CONFENIAE, Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador.

OPIAC, Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon.

ORPIA, Regional Organization of Amazonian Indigenous Peoples (Venezuela).

FOAG, Federation of Indigenous Organizations of Guyana.

OIS, Organization of Indigenous People in Suriname.



Brasil



Guyana
Francesa

Faced with the alarming situation of the murders of our indigenous sisters and brothers in the Amazon countries, which show the systematic violation of human rights, aggravated in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and which threatens the survival of indigenous peoples and the protection of the Amazon.

CONSIDERING:



Surinam

That in 2020, 263 murders of human rights defenders were recorded in Latin America, 202 of which occurred in countries of the Amazon Basin (Colombia, Brazil, Peru and Bolivia), representing 77% of the cases¹.



Venezuela

That 69% of these murders that occurred in 2020 were against leaders working in the defense of territory, environment and the rights of indigenous peoples.²



Colombia

That in the first quarter of 2021 alone, 19³ murders of indigenous brothers and sisters (Colombia and Peru), who were defending the rights of indigenous peoples and Mother Nature, have been recorded.

That, behind the murders of indigenous human rights and defenders of Mother Nature, there are structural problems directly linked to the advance of extractive activities that respond to the interests of corporations with state agreements that promote hydrocarbon extraction and indiscriminate mining, aggressive deforestation, drug trafficking, militarization and the presence of an armed conflict that has been diplomatically silenced and that threatens the physical and cultural integrity of our peoples.

¹ Front Line Defenders, 2020. Available at: https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/flid_global_analysis_2020.pdf

² Ibídem.

³ Colombia data: INDEPAZ, 2021. Available at: <http://www.indepaz.org.co/lideres-sociales-y-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-asesinados-en-2021/>

Peru data: Rights, Environment and Natural Resources (DAR), 2021.

Calle Sevilla N24-358 y Guipúzcoa • La Floresta • Casilla Postal 17-21-753

Telef.: (593) 23226-744 • Email: coica@coica.org.ec • administrador@coica.org.ec • www.coica.org.ec

Quito - Ecuador



COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA



Perú

That, the lack of titling of indigenous territories represents one of the greatest threats, since most of the murders have been due to the work of defending the territory and their actions in favor of the titling of the same.



Guyana

That, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR), has established that the loss of leaders represents damage to the social fabric of indigenous peoples and an express will to silence our voices, thereby disrupting the organization and organizational structure because it hinders the ability to express concerns about issues affecting our communities.



Ecuador

That, the right to life is the most important right of the human being inasmuch as it is from this right that all other rights become effective and is enshrined in Article 4 of the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR), Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Thus, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) establishes that the right to life is a *"fundamental human right, the enjoyment of which is a prerequisite for the enjoyment of all other human rights. If it is not respected, all rights are meaningless."*



Bolivia

That, in accordance with ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, Article 2 establishes that *"governments shall assume the responsibility to develop, with the participation of the peoples concerned, coordinated and systematic action to protect the rights of these peoples and to guarantee respect for their integrity"*.



Brasil

That, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, states in Article 7 that *"indigenous individuals have the right to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person."* It further determines that *"indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions."*



Guyana
Francesa

That, COICA is an instance of international convergence, representing more than 511 indigenous peoples and including 66 Peoples in Situation of Isolation and Initial Contact, which directs its efforts to the promotion, protection and security of our territories, with our ways of life, principles and social, spiritual, cultural, political and economic values.



Surinam



Venezuela

In view of the above and the evident violation of the human rights of the indigenous peoples in the Amazon basin, **WE HEREBY RESOLVE:**



Colombia

- Declare a **human rights emergency for indigenous defenders in the Amazon.**
- Strengthen COICA's Program for the **Defense of Indigenous Defenders**, through a roadmap developed together with our allies, to prevent our leaders from being cannon fodder for extractivist repression, stop persecution, protect their families and communities, and develop legal, political and judicial actions, before national and international bodies, against governments that destroy the Amazon and repress our peoples, in compliance with the Macapá Mandate.
- Submit this Declaration to the competent international organizations.

To the Governments of the 9 Amazon countries, **WE HEREBY DEMAND:**

- Adopt an effective policy to protect the human rights of indigenous defenders in the Amazon, knowing that they are in a highly vulnerable situation, especially in the border sectors where they are exposed to systematic situations of abandonment and state neglect, pressure from regular and irregular armed actors, imposition of extractive or forestry activities that generate dispossession, a situation that may amount to genocide by omission.

Calle Sevilla N24-358 y Guipúzcoa • La Floresta • Casilla Postal 17-21-753

Telef.: (593) 23226-744 • Email: coica@coica.org.ec • administrador@coica.org.ec • www.coica.org.ec

Quito - Ecuador



COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA



Perú



Guyana



Ecuador



Bolivia



Brasil



Guyana
Francesa



Surinam



Venezuela



Colombia

- Carry out urgent investigation actions in coordination with the different levels of government and the respective indigenous authorities, of the illegal extractive activities reported in indigenous territories, for their effective eradication.
- Guarantee the titling of indigenous peoples' territories, including delimitation, demarcation and regulation, with the due participation of representative indigenous organizations and based on the right to consultation and free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, as guaranteed in international instruments, in order to safeguard the survival of forests and cultures and halt the destructive pressures of extractivism and cultural and social disintegration.
- Respect the processes of autonomy and territorial self-government of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon Basin, as an alternative that strengthens our own governance, thus guaranteeing our individual and collective rights, allowing us to avoid aggressions to our territories and to stop harassment, persecution, criminalization, violations and assassinations.
Ratify and prioritize the implementation of the Escazú Agreement, which includes the provision to guarantee a safe and enabling environment in which people, groups and organizations that promote and defend human rights in environmental issues can act without threats, restrictions and insecurity.⁴

To the international bodies in accordance with their functions and competencies, **WE HEREBY DEMAND:**

- To the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, based on the data presented, to make a statement and request information from the governments of the Amazon Basin on the actions implemented for prevention, attention and reparation for our indigenous sisters and brothers who are victims of threats and assassinations for defending our territories and our lives.
- To the United Nations, to present a follow-up report on the assassinations of indigenous defenders in the Amazon Basin and to formulate recommendations to the States of the nine Amazon countries to prevent and repair violations of the rights of indigenous peoples.
- To the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to endorse this declaration in the framework of the celebration of its 20th session, to be held from April 19 to 30, 2021, and to initiate a process to design and adopt a general recommendation on indigenous defenders, including actions for prevention and attention, specifically the titling of indigenous territories as a mechanism to eradicate illegal activities.
- The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), as technical secretariat, together with the governments of the region that are parties to the Escazú Agreement, to open the process of negotiations of the COP for Escazú, with the participation of the indigenous organizations and to include delegates from the indigenous peoples of the Amazon in the committee for compliance and implementation of the Agreement.

Finally, we **URGE** international human rights organizations, organizations and allies that defend the lives of defenders, to unite and implement an action plan to safeguard the lives of the leaders of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon, whose only objective is to protect the territory and preserve the life of the largest tropical forest in the world, for current and future generations.

⁴ Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018. Available at https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43595/1/S1800429_es.pdf



COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA



Perú

It is time to stop hiding the blood and pain in our Amazonian territories, thus letting the murders of our sisters and brothers go without punishment, putting our survival as indigenous peoples at risk.

Live Amazonia, Secure Humanity!



Guyana

Quito, 14 de abril de 2021.

Sincerely,

DIRECTIVE COUNCIL OF COICA – DCC

José Gregorio Díaz Mirabal
Coordinator General of COICA



Ecuador



Bolivia

Tuntiak Katán Jua
Deputy Coordinator General of COICA

Elcio Da Silva Manchineri
Territories and Natural Resources
Coordinator



Brasil

Adolfo Chávez Beyuma
Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Coordinator

Tabea Casique Coronado
Education, Science and
Technology Coordinator



Guyana
Francesa

Michael John McGarrell
Policy and Collective Rights
Coordinator

Irvin Ray Harvey Ristie
Communications and Health
Coordinator



Surinam

Harol Rincón Ipuchima
Environment, Climate Change and
Biodiversity Coordinator

Claudette Labonté
Woman and Family
Coordinator



Venezuela



Colombia

COORDINATION COUNCIL OF COICA – CCC

Marlon Richard Vargas
President of CONFENIAE (Ecuador)

Tomas Candia
President of CIDOB (Bolivia)

Lizardo Cauper
President of AIDSESP (Perú)

Eligio Da Costa Evaristo
President of ORPIA (Venezuela)

Julio Cesar López
Presidente of OPIAC (Colombia)

Sirito Yana Aloema
Presidente of OIS (Suriname)

Thomas Lemmel Benson
Presidente of APA (Guyana)

Francinara Soares
COIAB (Brasil) Coordinator

Oscar Daza Gutierrez
Human Rights Coordinator of OPIAC
DEFENSE OF DEFENDERS